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**REMARKS**

The present Response is submitted in reply to the Official Action of May 31, 2005.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objects to the specification for the noted reasons. The above requested specification amendment is believed to overcome the raised informality concerning this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection(s) to the specification. If any further amendment to the specification is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Claims 12-22 are presently pending in the Application and the Examiner objects to claims 12, 19 and 20 for the reasons stated in the Official Action. In response, the Applicant enters suitable amendments to the claims that are believed to address and overcome the stated grounds for objection to the claims. The requested claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the objections raised by the Examiner and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all of the raised objections to claims 12, 19 and 20.

Next, the Examiner rejects claim 22, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. Rejected claim 22 is accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and all of the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejection(s) and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

The Examiner then rejects claims 12, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Fredriksen et al. '691. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

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The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 13-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this indication, dependent claim 13 is canceled from this application and the subject matter of claim 13 is entered as new independent claim 23. The Applicant respectfully submits that, in accordance with the Examiner's indications, new independent claim 23 is, therefore, allowable.

In addition, the remaining claims, including claims 21 and 22, are amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 23. In view of such amendment, claims 14-22 all incorporate the recitations and limitations of allowable base claim 23 and those claims, for at least the same reasons, are now patentably distinguished over and from the teachings of Fredriksen et al. '691 under the requirements and provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections of the claims over the cited prior art, and allow the claims as amended herein.

Lastly, and after consideration of allowable independent claim 23, which is a combination of the combined subject matter of claims 12 and 13, the Applicant is also entering new independent claim 24. This new claim recites aspects and limitations of the present invention that patentably distinguish the present invention over and from the teachings of Fredriksen et al. '631, but in a manner to provide the scope of protection to which the Applicant feels the present invention is entitled.

In particular, new independent claim 24 recites that the transmission shaft includes a single axial bore and that the shifting device of each gearwheel mounted on the transmission shaft is connected with the transmission shaft bore through a pressure medium supply hole. The transmission shaft bore further includes a single pressure medium pipe that is axially movable to selectively align a pressure medium hole in the pressure medium pipe with the pressure medium supply hole of a selected shifting device and associated gearwheel, thereby

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allowing each shifting device and associated gearwheel to be selectively actuated by appropriate positioning of the pressure medium pipe.

In fundamental contrast from the present invention, the transmission taught by Fredriksen et al. '691 does not include a pressure medium pipe located in an axial bore of the transmission shaft. In order to actuate the shifting devices in the Fredriksen et al. '691 transmission, therefore, it is necessary that the transmission shaft have a separate pressure medium supply passage for each shifting device. Fredriksen et al. '691 therefore does not remotely teach or even suggest the use of a single pressure medium supply pipe in a single transmission shaft/bore to provide actuation pressure to the shifting devices.

It is, therefore, the Applicant's belief and position that, for at least the above noted reasons, the transmission according to the presently claimed invention as recited in new independent claim 24, is fully and patentably distinguished over and from the teachings and suggestions of Fredriksen et al. '691, under the requirements and provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 24 does not add any new matter and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter and allow new claim 24 at this time.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Fredriksen et al. '691 reference, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field,

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the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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